

TOWN OF UNION SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

The Town of Union Board special board meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at the home of George and Sharon Franklin, 13847 W. Hwy 59, Evansville, WI at 6:36 p.m. by Chairman Kendall Schneider. Attendees included Supervisors George Franklin and Don Krajeck, Treasurer Sharon Franklin, Clerk Regina Ylvisaker, and Constable Kim Gruebling.

Road Maintenance and Snowplowing costs, including costs associated with acquiring and maintaining equipment and facilities or contracting with private contractor

Since the last Board meeting, all Board members attended a meeting at the Town of Center to hear a proposal from Footville Rock & Lime to perform snowplowing for Center and Union. The following day, Supervisors Franklin and Krajeck attended the special with Rock County Public Works. Per Krajeck, Public Works stated they were not going to renew the road maintenance agreements with Center and Union effective January 2011; current contracts in force will end in December 2010 and they will honor the current contract. If the Town decides to make other arrangements, Public Works is willing to negotiate an earlier termination date to allow a new person/contractor to begin plowing snow at the beginning of the 2010-2011 winter season instead of halfway into the season. The road maintenance agreement covers both summer and winter maintenance. Apparently their decision was based on the idea that neither Center nor Union did enough routine summer maintenance with the County to compensate for snowplowing costs. Per Schneider, the County also brought up issue of not having them do the sealcoating work on Green Bay and East Union Roads last summer. The County contends that they stated they were ready to go on the projects, while Schneider was told via a June 14 email that they were done sealcoating at the end of July. The Town was ready to sign for the work on April 30 but a culvert was an issue. One of the Town's concerns regarding having the County do the work was that they would sealcoat and not do the wedging we wanted. Schneider talked to Hal Meyer on April 24, 2009 about doing a culvert on Evansville-Brooklyn Road, which finally got done in September.

Krajeck stated the Public Works Committee told them at the meeting that they had heard the Town was looking at other options for snowplowing, and that was another reason for having the meeting. The Public Works Committee also told Krajeck that they did not have to notify the County Board of their decision, that the Transportation Committee of the County Board had the authority to make these decisions. Additionally, Krajeck stated there was a feeling among the Transportation Committee members that the Towns were getting subsidized snowplowing if the amount they were paying for plowing was not enough to cover the costs and the County taxpayers were forced to pick up the extra costs. Krajeck told the Committee that the Town of Union residents pay county taxes as well and any extra costs would be spread over all the county residents. He believes the feeling on the Committee is that Beloit and Janesville are paying for Town road plowing, due in part to the fact that the Committee is made up

mostly of people from those cities.

Schneider stated that Center is looking strongly at contracting out, likely a three year agreement. Footville Trucking currently does roadside mowing for the Town of Union, and would like this included in the contract as well as our culvert work. They would be interested in the Town plowing our own subdivisions. A proposal is being drafted by Al Miller. The proposal he gave Center was a minimum yearly payment up front, and \$5,000 less if Center plowed their own subdivisions. Center has a large subdivision off county H near Leyden, and several other smaller ones.

Some current issues to address include purchasing a plow truck now or later; buying new vs. used; and the size of truck. George Franklin thinks an initial question to ask is what the Town will need to acquire first – is it property, truck, end loader? Krajeck thinks the most important issue to address is getting an agreement with someone for plowing the bulk of the Town roads. He doesn't believe that financially or physically we can get enough equipment to do the plowing on our own, especially in such a short period of time. The second issue to address would be purchasing our own truck big enough to plow subdivisions so we can also do routine maintenance, potholes, signage. Additionally, if we had our own truck we could eliminate the cost of hiring out to plow the recycling center. Kim Gruebling was of the opinion that the contractor should do both our subdivisions and our roads or nothing at all. The Town will have our own equipment costs, and also be paying the contractor for his equipment, and so will be paying twice for those costs. Gruebling is also concerned about the ability to handle the largest snowstorms, and is unsure that the Town will be able to handle them with smaller equipment. Krajeck explained that Miller's proposal to Center was a flat figure, minimum yearly amount, and if Center wanted to plow their own subdivisions he would lower the minimum payment by \$5,000. The minimum payment would allow for a set number of hours of plowing; if we have a light winter and not all the hours are used we forfeit the extra money not used to Miller. Salt and sand storage is an issue, especially hauling it from Footville Rock & Lime to Union. Franklin talked to Dick Kersten about his buildings and land across from the old weigh station/Territorial Road on Highway 14, wondering if he would be interested in selling or leasing the land to the Town. Franklin is unsure how many acres are with the buildings. Kersten stated that they were thinking of selling it, but their issue is they would lose their right of way onto their land from Highway 14. The Town could give them a driveway off Green Bay Road or they could be granted access to use the driveway the Town would use onto Highway 14, as it would be wide enough for their equipment. Kersten stated he would talk with his brothers regarding the issue.

Franklin has done some research on trucks, plows, and loaders. He provided a quote from Aring: L70 wheel loader with forks, boom suspension system, 11' plow (can put a wing on it), automatic power shift transmission. Is a loader, not a truck, and can't go as fast, max speed would be about 25 mph on the road. A government lease program is available: 7 years, \$21,760 per year, and the machine would be owned by the Town at the end of the 7 years. Through an available deferred payment option, if the equipment was purchased in September 2010, the first payment would not be due until September

2011. Volvo is more expensive than Case or John Deere, but fuel economy savings on this machine - per people who use them consistently - can be substantial enough to make one payment on the machine. Franklin believes the loader could be used for salt as well. Miller Bradford Case on Dutch Mill Road has a 1994 Chevy Top Kick truck, flatbed, for \$6,600. It is larger than one ton. The motor is clean, 79,000 miles, 6.6 liter 6 cylinder CAT diesel, 5 speed manual transmission, dual rear wheels. Franklin has purchased equipment at Miller Bradford before without problems. Madison Truck Equipment stated that for \$50,000 they could shorten the wheelbase of the truck, add a box, plow, wing, hydraulics and 9" tailgate sander which would allow for spreading crushed rock as well. Total cost of truck with conversion would be about \$56,600. Schneider expressed concerns about the truck's wheelbase and its related ability to turn in subdivisions.

Schneider mentioned the idea of joint mailboxes on cul-de-sacs, both for ease of plowing and for mail delivery. The post office would need to approve such a change. Gruebling mentioned repairs, who and where they would be done. Franklin stated this is another reason the Town needs property. Milt Hoesly has a corner property on Green Bay Road; Schneider stated that he wasn't interested in selling in the past but things may have changed. That location would have issues with security and power.

Next step: Schneider will arrange a time to meet with Al Miller, to discuss issues and concerns the Town has: i.e. subdivisions, costs for plowing entire Town vs. Town without subdivisions, who determines when he goes out to plow, weekend coverage, who is in charge, salt storage, size of limestone chips used. Once the Town is no longer contracting with the County, the Town must provide 24 hour service; who will that be? Schneider will try to get a date set up with Miller before the Franklins leave on March 10.

Approval of attendance at Wisconsin Towns Association meeting March 27, 2010

Motion to approve attendance of George Franklin, Sharon Franklin, Regina Ylvisaker at the March 6 meeting at the Kalahari, and attendance of Don Krajeck and Kendall Schneider at the March 27 meeting at Randy's Supper Club, Whitewater made by Kendall. Second by Don Krajeck. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Ylvisaker will handle registration.

Review and board action on minimum medical payments coverage as part of the Town's liability insurance policy.

Motion to reject option to include auto medical payment endorsement on liability insurance policy made by Don Krajeck. Second by George Franklin. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Krajeck will deliver paperwork to Tom Calley.

Motion to adjourn made by Kendall Schneider. Second by Don Krajeck. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Regina Ylvisaker.

Note: minutes are considered draft until reviewed and approved by the Town Board at a properly noticed meeting.